National Highways in Tamil Nadu

1800. SHRI R. T. GOPALAN: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) the number of roads in Tamil Nadu which have been declared as National Highways during the last three years;

(b) whether there is any proposal to convert the Madurai-Kottayam road link as National Highways; and

(c) if so, the steps taken to speed up the work keeping in view of the importance of this link between two neighbouring States?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI RAJESH PILOT): (a) No road has been declared as a National Highway during the last three years in Tamil Nadu.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

Token strike by University and College Teachers

1801. SHRI J. P. GOYAL: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that about two lakh teachers of universities and colleges all over the country went on a token strike on the 25th December, 1986;

(b) if so, what were the demands of these University and College teachers; and

(c) what is the reaction of Government towards their demands?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF EDUCATION AND CULTURE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI KRISHNA SAHI): (a) According to information available, the All India Federation of University and College Teachers' Organisations and their State Units had given a call for a token strike on 25-2-87.

(b) and (c) The major demands of University and college teachers are immediate revision of their pay scales and modifications in some of the recommendations of the Mehrotra Committee Report on pay scales and conditions of service. The Report of the Mehrotra Committee which was appointed by UGC to recommend pay scales of teachers in universities and colleges is at the final stages of consideration.

Development of Telecommunications in Eastern and North-Eastern States

1802. SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have given high priority to the development of telecommunications in the eastern and north-eastern States;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof; and

(c) the progress made so far in its implmentations?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SANTOSH MOHAN DEV): (a) Yes, Sir. Only for North Eastern States.

(b) Plan proposals among other items envisage addition of about 26000 lines of switching capacity.

Conversion of about 17000 manual lines to auotomatic working.

Replacement of about 7000 lines.

Opening of new Digital Trunk Automatic Exchange (TAX) at Guwahati and Jorhat.

Opening of about 8 new telex exchanges and replacement of Guwahati Telex exchange by electronic telex exchange.

Opening of low cost Satellite earth stations in strategically important towns.

Commissioning of about 2600 Route Km. of Microwave and Ultra High Frequency Systems.

(c) Satisfactory progress has been made so far.

Opening of Navodaya Vidyalayas in Orissa

1803. KUMARI SUSHILA TIRIA: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) what are the details of locations identified for opening of Navodaya Vidyalayas in Orissa;

(b) what is the number of such Vidyalayas to be opened for Adivasis of that State;

(c) whether it is a fact that land survey of Tato Village in District Mayurbhanj was made with a view to opening a Navodaya Vidyalaya there;

(d) if so, what are the details thereof; and

(e) what decision Government have taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF EDUCATION AND CULTURE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI KRISHNA SAHI): (a) In Orissa, 5 Navodaya Vidyalayas have been established in 86-87 in the following districts:

1. Koraput
2. Keonjhar
3. Dhenkanal
4. Cuttack
5. Phulbani

For 87-88, proposals have been received from the Government of Orissa for the following districts:

District	Location
1. Ganjam	Sufangi
2. Sundergarh	Zing Nagar
3. Sambalpur	Pardhipali
4. Puri	Kuanria Dam Site.
5. Bolangir	Patnagarh
6. Kalahandi	Narla
7. Mayurbhanj	Senei Irrigation Project Site.
8. Balasore	Nilgiri

Opening of Navodaya Vidyalayas in 1987-88 has yet to be finalised.

(b) There is no provision in the Scheme for opening Navodaya Vidyalayas exclusively for Adivasis. However, the reservation of seats in favour of children belonging to SC & ST has been provided in proportion to their population in the concerned district provided that in no district such reservation will be less than the national average.

(c) to (e) No proposal for establishment of Navodaya Vidyalaya at Tato Village in the district of Mayurbhanj has been received so far from the State Government in Orissa.

Centres for Women's Education

1804. KUMARI SUSHILA TIRIA: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the University Grants Commission has decided to set up ten centres for women's education in the Seventh Plan; and

(b) what is the objective of these centres and what are the criteria adopted for the selection of places of these centres?